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4) This isn't a "rule", but Iskultep Scans is in need of more Japanese-to-English translators to help us out. Email enigmascans@yahoo.com for more details.

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icthys作品集

NO ONE CAN DO IT ― 3

神子―シェンズー― ― 55

桜雪 ― 93

混乱の塔 ― 135

IN THIS WORLD...
... THERE IS NO GOD WHO SAVES...

SA-TSUKI!
ARE YOU OKAY...
!!?
HOW CRUEL!
A CROW !!
A CROW HAS BEEN FEARED !
.....
... AND NO GOD WHO MAKES REVENGES...

NO ONE
CAN DO IT

HA HA HA!
AHA HAHA HA!!
HEY THERE, BUDDY!
HOW YOU DOING?
Creepy old man.

PLEASE, SAMURAI-SAMA!! I'M SORRY!
PLEASE FORGIVE HIM!!
THIS SWORD ISN'T USED FOR CUTTING UP PEOPLE.
...AH
...?
YOU CAN RELAX.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, DO YOU KNOW SOME-ONE NAMED "MUICHI"?
.. ARE YOU TALK-ING ABOUT KIRA-SAMA -?
HE'S SUPPOSED TO HAVE JUST ARRIVED IN THIS VILLAGE .
... BUT, BEFORE THAT—
I NEED TO GET SOME FOOD.
IS THAT SO?!
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR HIM FOR A LONG TIME!

WOW... SO YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A TRAINING JOURNEY...
Deli-cious!
THAT'S QUITE IMPRES-SIVE, YOUNG FELLA.
... MY KATANA' GONE?!
THAT'S RIGHT!! I'M GOING TO BE THE BEST IN THE WORLD!
IT WAS STOLEN! I NEED TO GET BACK!
WAIT, YOU HAVEN'T PAID YET!
WITH THIS MUSORI* KATANA ...
*Musori means To bend/curve, but implies no blade as well.

OH.. ISN'T THIS A RARE MUSORI KATANA?
A MUSORI KATANA..?
THAT'S A KATANA WITHOUT A CURVE...?
THAT'S RIGHT... HOWEVER, ITS EFFICIENCY IS NOT AS GOOD AS OTHER KATANAS. SO IT'S NOT EASY TO USE
ばん
キン
.....
SA-TSUKI...
THIS IS STOLEN
A VERY KIND SAMURAI...
I DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT DETAILS. SO, HOW MUCH WILL YOU BUY FOR IT?
...GAVE IT TO ME
I'M NOT LYING!
.....

FINE!! I'LL SELL IT SOMEWHERE ELSE!
SA-TSUKI!
……
.. YOU STILL WON'T SMILE..?
EVER SINCE THAT...
SOME-THING LIKE THAT...
... IS WORTH-LESS.
... THAT WOUND STILL WON'T HEAL..?
I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING TOO HARSH, EITHER... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...

THIS IS JUST A TOOL FOR KILLING OTHER PEOPLE
BANDITS, THIEVES, ALL PEOPLE WHO CARRY KATANAS – THEY ARE ALL THE SAME!
THEY KILL PEOPLE WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT IT!
HMMM, BUT EVEN SO, COULDN'T HE JUST SAY HE WILL BUY IT ANYWAY?
DAMN...
HE FIGURED IT OUT...
IF THEIR OPPONENT IS A FARMER...
...THEY WILL KILL THEM AS IF THEY'RE WORMS
NOT TO MENTION, IF THAT GUY I STOLE THIS KATANA FROM FINDS ME...
IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT I'D BE KILLED, TOO, IF EVER A SAMURAI FINDS ME LOOKING LIKE THIS...

I WON'T LET MYSELF BE FOUND OUT.
THE ONLY THING THEY TAUGHT ME IS THAT SALVATION DOESN'T EXIST.
SO, I'LL GET STRONGER.
EVEN IF I DO BAD THINGS, I'LL SAVE MONEY AND LEAVE THIS TINY VILLAGE.
I'LL LIVE BY MYSELF.
I CAN'T RIGHT NOW, BUT...
UNTIL I GET MY DESIRED REVENGE SOMEDAY
I WON'T SHOW ANY KIND OF HAPPINESS.
I WON'T BECOME SOME CRYING WEAKLING THAT JUST DRAGS THEIR PAST WITH THEM.

BECAUSE THAT'S DEFINITELY BECOMING STRONGER...

...CHILD.
HI!
WHY IS A CHILD CARRYING A KATANA ...?
A THIEF ...?
KIRA SAMA.../ THIS IS BAD...
EVIL IS UNFORGIVEABLE I'LL CUT YOU.
YOU... YOU GOT IT ALL WRONG! I FOUND THIS!!
OH! I SEE!

SO WHAT...?
!!?
HUH...
SORRY, BUDDY.
THAT KID'S A FRIEND OF MINE,
SO SHE'S HOLDING MY SWORD FOR ME.

!?
I SEE. IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN I UNDERSTAND
MY APOLOGIES I THOUGHT IT WAS STOLEN
thought
I'M GLAD I FOUND IT!
IT'S A PRECIOUS KATANA, YOU KNOW!

...
WHY?
HUH?
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO GO AND SAVE ME?! I STOLE YOUR STUFF!
"WHY"? I DON'T LIKE SEEING PEOPLE GETTING KILLED.
Why are you mad?
BE-SIDES ...
YOU WERE JUST TEMPTED TO STEAL IT, RIGHT?
.....
WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY...
HEY, KIRA-SAMA !!!

PLEASE TAKE THIS
I'VE GOT SOME BUSINESS ABOUT YOUR LODGING FOR TONIGHT..
SO I HAVE TO LEAVE HERE RIGHT AWAY
YOU SEEM BUSY AS ALWAYS
Thanks for the liquor
Of course!
THAT'S TOO BAD, WE WANTED TO ENTERTAIN YOU FOR TONIGHT.
YOU'RE THE PERSON WHO SAVED OUR VILLAGE!
WOW, WHAT IS THAT GUY?
KIRA-SAMA
HE'S REALLY GOOD WITH A KATANA
AND IT SEEMS HE WENT AROUND AND TAUGHT AT SCHOOLS AROUND THE COUNTRY
EARLIER, WHEN KIRA-SAMA FIRST VISITED THIS VILLAGE,
WE WERE ATTACKED BY A BAND OF THIEVES

AT THAT TIME, HE CHASED AFTER THE THIEVES BY HIMSELF TO TAKE BACK THE STOLEN GOODS.
SA-TSUKI
THAT'S WHY HE'S THE VILLAGE'S PATRON.
ARE YOU OKAY?
WELL?
IT'S NO GOOD SHE SUFFERED A PRETTY STRONG SHOCK AND SHE'S STILL
WELL, TO WITNESS SOME-THING LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF YOU IS
KIRA-SAMA HASN'T COME BACK YET?
HE'S CHASING AFTER THE THIEVES...
I'LL BE HAPPY IF SHE'S ALRIGHT ...
HE CER-TAINLY IS GOOD, BUT TO GO BY HIMSELF I'M KIND OF WOR-RIED
KIRA-SAMA HAS...
KIRA-SAMA HAS COME BACK!

I WAS ONLY ABLE TO GET THIS SMALL AMOUNT OF STOLEN GOODS, BUT...
I FAILED TO CATCH THE THIEVES.
I'M SORRY...
KIRA-SAMA!
KIRA-SAMA!!!

SO EVERY-ONE HAS FELT A SENSE OF GRATITUDE SINCE THEN.
SO IT'S LIKE THIS EVERY TIME KIRA-SAMA COMES TO THIS VILLAGE.
WOW... RUNNING I INTO A BUNCH OF THIEVES ON YOUR OWN IS PRETTY AMAZING...
HE'S THE REAL DEAL.

EVERY-BODY SAYS SO, BUT...
DOES ANYONE REALLY KNOW WHO THIS "MUICHI" IS?
OH, I'M AIMING FOR THE TOP, SO, I WAS JUST WONDERING IF IT'S POSSIBLE TO TRY FIGHTING HIM ONCE.
SAY, IS HE THE STRONGEST IN THE LAND THAT EVERY-ONE CALLS "MUICHI"?
BUT..
THERE'S SOME-THING CREEPY ABOUT HIM...
OH!
A WOMAN WAS SAYING HE MIGHT BE.
THE BEST IN THE LAND YOU?
YUP
.....
IDIOT!
THERE'S NO WAY!
A WEAKLING LIKE YOU WILL DIE IN NO TIME.
LOOK, LOOK, THE CHERRY BLOS-SOMS ARE BUD-DING!
LIS-TEN TO ME!
IT'S DECI-DED!

I'LL ASK HIM FOR A MATCH!
I GOT IT! YOU'RE AN UNBELIEVABLE IDIOT!
HEY!!
KIRA!!
HUH?
THE GUY FROM EARLIER...
I HEARD YOU ARE GOOD WITH A SWORD, SO IF YOU CAN, PLEASE HAVE A MATCH WITH ME!
MY NAME IS HAJIME!
HI
A MATCH WITH...
...KIRA-SAMA?!
IT WOULD BE FOR THE BEST IF YOU STOP.
JUDGING FROM YOUR APPEARANCE, YOU WOULDN'T BE A MATCH FOR ME.
YOU'LL ONLY GET HURT

...
SOR-RY
I HAVE AN ERRAND TODAY, SO I HAVE TO LEAVE SOON
I'LL FIGHT YOU ANOTHER TIME
EHH...
EVEN FOR JUST A LITTLE WHILE...?
YOU PER-SIS-TENT ...
OH YEAH, THAT RE-MINDS ME...
I THINK I'VE SEEN YOU SOME-WHERE BEFORE...

YOU'RE THE "CROW" ...
?
HUHP
ARE YOU PLANNING TO STEAL EVEN MORE FROM THIS VILLAGE?!
THERE'S NO MISTAKE; A CROW HAS COME TO THE VILLAGE FOR SOMETHING!
EHP ME?
... I ..
... DROPPED MY WAL-LET...
NO— I WAS IN A RUSH EARLIER.. I KNOW, I'LL PAY NOW!
WHAT?! WE WON'T BE CAUGHT OFF GUARDED BY SUCH A WEAK-LOOKING CROW!
AHP! THIS IS THE GUY WHO ATE AND DIDN'T PAY EARLIER!

EHH... WAIT...!
THIS CROW SHOWS UP MAKING A DUMB FACE! WE WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY!
I'LL GIVE YOU BACK PLENTY FOR WHAT YOU DID!
WHAT DO YOU ...
ARE YOU STILL PLAYING DUMB?!
DON'T TELL ME YOU FORGOT WHAT YOU DID TO SATSUKI'S PARENTS?!
BECAUSE OF THAT INCIDENT, SATSUKI STOPPED SMILING ...
DID YOU SEE THAT IDIOT?
HE'S GOTTA BE SO STUPID FOR CHALLENGING KIRA-SAMA!
BUT IT SURE IS LIKE YOU TO NOTICE A CROW
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE ON A GUY LIKE THAT.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, A TESTIMONY FROM SOMEONE WHO HAS CAUGHT THE CROWS BEFORE...
WOULD ONLY MAKE THE VILLAGER'S TO DOUBT HIM.

.. HOWEVER, I COULDN'T EVEN MOVE MY SWORD A LITTLE BIT WHEN HE STOPPED ME EARLIER
IS HIS POWER ..
... REAL?
WHAT A SERIOUSLY STUPID VILLAGE
YOU DAMN CROW!
ARE YOU SAYING WE'RE MISTAKEN?!
WHAT?! EVEN THOUGH EVERYONE HAS BEEN TREATING ME LIKE A HUMAN AND THOUGHT I WAS A HUMAN, YOU'RE STILL SAYING I'M A CROW?!
.. WHAT A DUMB RESPONSE
I'M DEFINITELY NOT A BIRD. I'M A HUMAN, RIGHT?
.. OH COME ON NOW, NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT ME,

WE HAVE A PROBLEM!
WHAT?!
SINCE KIRA-SAMA HAS LEFT,
MORE THAN THAT...
THERE IS NO HELPING IT.
SATSUKI, YOU STAY HERE AND STAND GUARD! WE RECEIVED A WARNING THAT THE CROWS ARE GOING TO SHOW UP TONIGHT!
THE VILLAGERS WILL PROTECT THE VILLAGE TOGETHER!
WHAT?!
I TOLD YOU ALREADY, WHAT DO YOU MEAN "CROW"?
GOT IT?! DON'T LET THAT GUY GET AWAY! WE'LL HURT HIM AFTERWARDS!
A WARNING WAS SENT OUT?! SURE, I THINK THEY ARE SLY ANIMALS, BUT DO THEY HAVE THAT MUCH INTELLIGENCE?!
UHH... NO, NOT THE BIRD CROW, BUT THE BAND OF THIEVES WHO CALL THEMSELVES "THE CROWS".
This guy's a pain.

MY PARENTS WERE KILLED BY...
... THE CROWS.
THAT'S WHY I KNOW YOU AREN'T ONE OF THEM.
THEY AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE AS DUMB-LOOKING AS YOU.
THAT CRUEL BEHAVIOR.
IT'S USELESS FOR SOMEONE WHO LAUGHS A LOT.
.....
NOW I SEE! THAT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD!
SO YOU WERE REALLY LIVING IT TOUGH, AND THAT'S THE REASON WHY YOU STOLE, RIGHT?!
!!?
ARE YOU REALLY THAT STUPID?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING SYMPATHIZING WITH THE PERSON WHO STOLE YOUR STUFF?!
BUT THE VILLAGERS WILL DEFINITELY DIE!
I can't get out!
You idiot!
SOMETHING LIKE THAT WILL HAPPEN TO THOSE VILLAGERS?! EVEN A KIND PERSON HAS HIS LIMITS!

DON'T LAUGH!
...OR SO IT'S SAID.
ARGH, PEOPLE WHO ARE TOO KIND PISS ME OFF!
...WELL, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
OOF!
...TONIGHT, HUH?
WILL THE VILLAGER'S BE FINE ON THEIR OWN?
ALRIGHT, I'LL HELP!

WHA...?! ARE YOU PLANNING ON FIGHTING THE CROWS? EVEN THOUGH THIS HAS HAPPENED TO YOU...?!
THAT ARE JUST PRETTY WORDS
WELL, YOUR PAIN IS OVER BUT... IF I WERE YOU, I WOULDN'T FIGHT
IT'S DEFINITELY A LIE. I WON'T BELIEVE YOU.
YOU'RE AN IDIOT. A HUGE IDIOT.
"WHY", YOU ASK? WELL, I WANT TO HELP. THAT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO, SO THEY SHOULD REALIZE THAT, RIGHT?
BAD THINGS WON'T CONTINUE, BUT GOOD THINGS WILL.
I GOT THAT FROM SOMEBODY.

... WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY...

A GUY THAT LAUGHS A LOT, LOOKING LIKE AN IDIOT...

JUST STEP BACK A BIT
YEAH
.. BUT I DON'T HAVE THE KEY...
OF COURSE ...
FOLLOW-ING AFTER KIRA-SAMA...
LET'S GO.
THE VILLAGER'S PATROL IS LIGHT AS WELL.

YOU GUYS ...
... ARE THE CROWS?
HOW DO THE CROWS KNOW THAT?
!!?
... TO BE IN JAIL, RIGHT?!
YOU'RE SUP-POSED ...

...NO WAY... YOU'RE A...
THAT CAN'T BE!!
...CROW...
THAT'S RIGHT.

AH!
SO, YOU WERE TRICKING THE VILLAGERS?
IT'S WORSE TO GET YOURSELF GET FOOLED
THE TALK ABOUT CHASING AFTER THE CROWS WHO ATTACKED THE VILLAGE AND BRINGING ABOUT THE STOLEN GOODS WAS JUST TO PLEASE THEM
HOWEVER, I'VE GROWN TIRED OF THIS VILLAGE'S HOSPITALITY
SO TONIGHT, I'M GOING TO ATTACK THE VILLAGE AGAIN AND TAKE THE REMAINING VALUABLES.
LASTLY, I'M GOING TO SET FIRE TO THIS VILLAGE AND BID IT FAREWELL. BUT...
... YOU'VE GOTTEN IN MY WAY.

SINCE THAT KID WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO WITNESSED THAT I WAS WITH THE CROWS
THAT REMINDS ME, SOMEONE GOT IN MY WAY LAST TIME, TOO.
DAMN... THAT BRAT GOT LUCKY TWICE..
I WAS ABOUT TO KILL THAT BRAT...
I won't forgive you!
WHEN IT GETS A REAL BLADE...
IT CAN CUT FOR THE FIRST TIME.
Ahaha!
AHA HA HA HA HA HA!!
Uhaha!
THAT MUSORI CAN'T EVEN CUT A SINGLE PERSON!
Ohaha!
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO WITH A BLUNT KATANA?
YOU WON'T FORGIVE ME?

IT'S SIMPLE! IF YOU WANT TO GET STRONGER, YOU SHOULD KILL PEOPLE!
THERE IS A LIMIT TO STRENGTH!
THERE IS NO GOOD OR EVIL!
PEOPLE ARE ONLY GRATEFUL TO THE STRONG!
AM I WRONG?!
WE CAN'T JUST LAZE ABOUT HERE FOREVER
YOU GUYS GO ON AHEAD.

……
キン

I WON'T LET YOU PASS HERE

...THAT REMINDS ME, YOU SAID YOU WANTED A MATCH, RIGHT?
HOWEVER, IF YOU THINK ABOUT WHAT A KATANA THAT CAN'T CUT CAN DO, IT MOWS YOU OVER A STRENGTH THAT WILL MAKE YOU FAINT...
ALL THOSE GUYS AT ONCE...
I HAVE NEVER LOST TO SOMEONE BEFORE.
...THAT'S...
THAT'S THE REASON I COULDN'T MOVE THAT TIME.
WHAT A RIDICULOUS POWER...
ギリッ
...BECAUSE I'M...
..."MUICHI"!

ドカ
ドカ
ドカ

YOU'RE WEAK
TOTAL-LY WEAK.
AGG GGG HHH!!

Uhhh... I bent them?
AH, HOW DID YOU GET OUT?!
WHA... WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?!
WHAT THE... WHAT HAPPENED TO KIRA-SAMA?!
LIAR!!!
THAT KIRA-SAMA IS A CROW!
KIRA-SAMA HAS PROTECTED THIS VILLAGE!
LIKE HELL WE CAN TRUST YOU! JUST LOOK WHAT YOU HAVE DONE TO US!
BUT THAT WAS ALSO...

WHAT?! EVERYONE, GRAB HIM AND LET'S GIVE HIM THE DEATH PENALTY!
EHH ?!
IT'S TRUE.
JUST LIKE WHAT HAJIME SAID, KIRA WAS A CROW.
SATSU-KI..?
HAJIME SAVED THE VILLAGE.
GETTING BACK OUR STOLEN GOODS FROM THE CROWS BEFORE WAS JUST A PART OF KIRA'S ACT.
ALL OF IT WAS HIS PLAN TO MAKE US SERVE HIM.
ALSO HE WASN'T SATISFIED WITH JUST THAT
HE PLANNED ON ATTACKING US AGAIN AND BURNING THE VILLAGE.

HE...
KIRA SAID SO.
.....!!!
.....
SA-TSU-KI!!
MY MOTHER AND FATHER ...!!!

.. BUT IF I DO THAT...
I'M THE SAME AS THEM...
RIGHT, HAJIME?
EH...
...UGH...

ぎゃあああああ
SFX GYAAAA!!
WHY?
WHY DO YOU FIGHT WITH A MUSORI KATANA?
IT'S SAD, BUT IT SEEMS TO BE A NORMAL TALE IN THIS AGE
BUT THAT'S WHY I DECIDED TO NOT KILL ANYONE
MY MOTHER AND FATHER WERE KILLED A LONG TIME AGO.
...WHAT?
MY FATHER TAUGHT ME THE SWORD AND OFTEN SAID.
"THE BAD WON'T CONTINUE, BUT THE GOOD WILL."
SO, I DO GOOD THINGS AND LAUGH ABOUT IT. ALSO, I DECIDED TO BECOME THE BEST IN THE LAND WITH MY KEEPSAKE KATANA.

KEEP-SAKE ...?!
AND IF I BECOME FAMOUS,
I'M GLAD I FOUND IT.
MAYBE THIS WORLD WILL CHANGE A BIT.
YOU WERE TEMPTED, RIGHT?
WHY DID YOU SAVE ME?
YOU'RE WRONG...
BECAUSE YOU'VE GONE THROUGH A LOT.
WRONG.

EVEN THOUGH THE VILLAGERS WERE SO KIND TO ME..

I WASN'T SATISFIED.

ALSO, I WASN'T TEMPTED. IT WAS A CRIME OF CONSCIENCE

THE VILLAGERS LOOK AFTER ME, SO MONEY ISN'T A PROBLEM.

I THOUGHT I WAS THE MISERABLE ONE.

I THOUGHT OTHER PEOPLE'S SADNESS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.

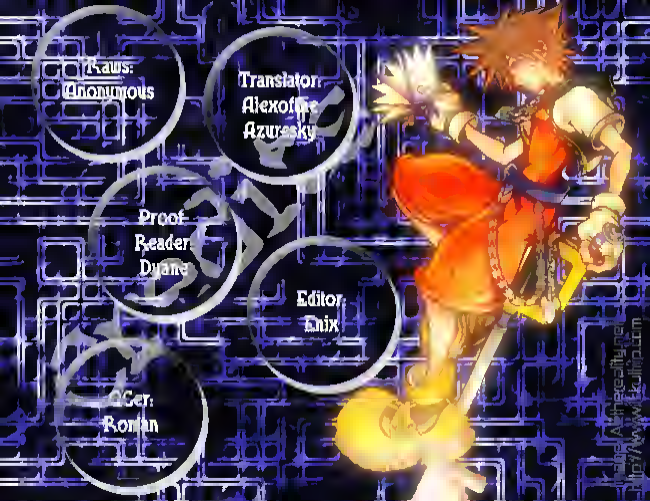
I THOUGHT HE WAS A HAPPY-GO-LUCKY GUY, WHO'S ALWAYS LAUGHING, AND HAD NEVER BEEN BURDENED WITH SADNESS BEFORE...

I WANT TO LIVE STRONGLY LIKE HAJIME!
I WILL CHANGE!
THAT'S GOOD.

HE LEFT.
I wonder if I'll meet the real Mutchi this time...
HE SURE WAS A GOOD GUY..
WE BETRAYED HIM A BIT.
Laughed a lot too
EVEN THOUGH WE LOCKED HIM UP IN JAIL, AND EVEN PLANNED ON KILLING HIM, HE LAUGHED AND FORGAVE US.
I forgot his laugh.
I THOUGHT A STRONG PERSON WOULD BE A LITTLE MORE ARROGANT, BUT..
AGH!
What am I thinking.
AGH!
...MAYBE THERE REALLY ARE STRONG PEOPLE LIKE THAT AFTER ALL...?
WHAT'S UP, SATSUKI?
HE DIDN'T NOTICE, AND..
BECAUSE OF THAT TEMPER, HE HASN'T NOTICED YET

IF "HAJIME" IS WRITTEN ON THAT MUSORI KATANA
MAYBE HAJIME IS THE "MUICHI"...?
THE "ICHI" KANJI IN MUICHI CAN BE READ ALONE AS "HAJIME"
ガラ～ッ
ガラ～ッ
ガラ～ッ
ガラ～ッ
ドン
うわ
WHAT?!
ARE YOU SERIOUS?! AND WE DOUBTED HIM...
ゆ
THE NEXT TIME HAJIME-SAMA COMES BY,
WE'LL GIVE HIM A BIG WELCOME!
ALRIGHT!!!
オオ
IF I DO THE RIGHT THING, SOMEDAY...

HE'LL DEFINITELY UNDERSTAND...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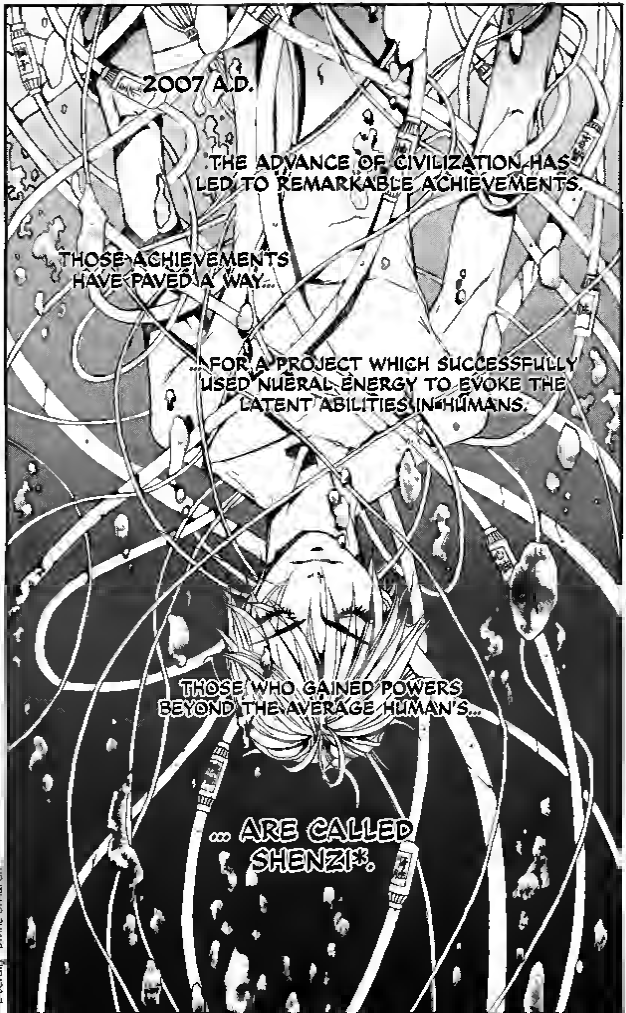

2007 A.D.
THE ADVANCE OF CIVILIZATION HAS LED TO REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS.
THOSE ACHIEVEMENTS HAVE PAVED A WAY...
...FOR A PROJECT WHICH SUCCESSFULLY USED NUERAL ENERGY TO EVOKE THE LATENT ABILITIES IN HUMANS.
THOSE WHO GAINED POWERS BEYOND THE AVERAGE HUMAN'S...
... ARE CALLED SHENZI*.

*Literally "Divine Children"

神
シェン

HONG KONG II, 2030.
EE-EK-KKK-KKK-KK!!
ARG-HHH-HHH!!
HEY, YOU! PUT YOUR HANDS IN THE AIR!
OR I'LL SHO-OT!
SFX: RHING
SFX: SWIRL SWIRL

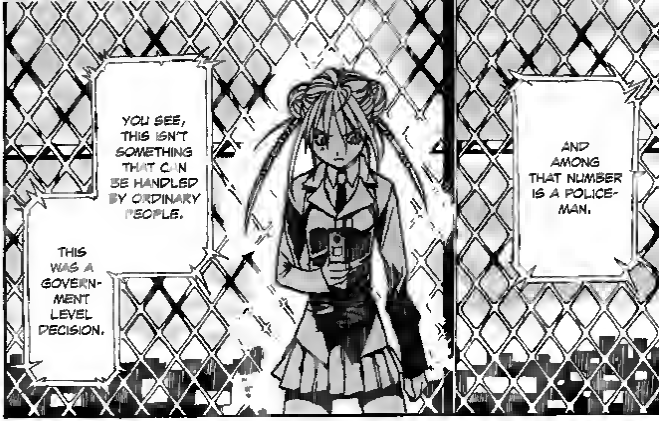
SFX: PC
?!

KYAA-AAAA-AAA!!
AHHHH-HHHHH-HHH!!
SFX: THUD

OLD TOWN

©FX KUSTLE

SHENZI 50/9
SHUANG!
I'M SORRY, J.1, BUT THERE'S A MURDERER ON THE LOOSE, AND 50/9 WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM.
WHY THE HELL DID I HAVE TO COME TO THIS GOD-FORSAKEN PLACE?!
Aren't they going to tear down this place next year? Not a single soul's here!
CAN'T YOU JUST LET THE COPS DEAL WITH HIM?
HE MURDERED THIRTY-SIX PEOPLE...
... IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
SHENZI J.1


YOU SEE, THIS ISN'T SOMETHING THAT C. IN BE HANDLED BY ORDINARY PEOPLE.
THIS WAS A GOVERN-MENT LEVEL DECISION.
AND AMONG THAT NUMBER IS A POLICE-MAN.

WHY DID YOU EVEN BOTHER WITH THIS?
JEEZ, SO/9
WELL THEN, TAKE CARE OF THE VIDEO TOO, J. I.
AND YOU ARE THE BACKUP PLAN.
Sigh
I SEE.
SHUANG SAID IF I KICKED THE MON-STER'S ASS...
SHE'D GIVE ME FREEDOM
FINE!
THE FORMER, OF COURSE
IS THAT MEANT AS A COMPLI-MENT, OR JUST A WAY TO ORDER ME A-ROUND?
GEE, THANKS A LOT

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
WHAT? YOU BELIEVED HER?
.....
NO-THING.
DON'T MIND IT.
YOU MEAN THE SUR-VEILLANCE CAMERA? SORRY, IT'S A REQUEST FROM THE LAB
TURN THAT THING AWAY FROM ME!
.....
SFX SMACK!
SFX TSK
Nyo
ho ho
ho ho
HEY LOOK! HE CAME WHILE WE WERE TALKING!
SFX SCRUNCH
SFX SWING

Stop making weird names will you?
SNICK
THE DEMON WHO KILLED THIRTY-SIX PEOPLE IN ONE SECOND.
I NEVER HAD...
... A CHANCE TO LOOK UP AT THE SKY LIKE THIS.
I FELT STIFLED, HELPLESS
EVERYWHERE I WENT, THERE WERE WALLS, ENDLESS WALLS, LOW CEILINGS AND SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS
WE CAN MOVE AROUND WITHOUT RESTRAINT
THE SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS .. JUST IGNORE THEM
WHO CARES ABOUT THE COMPLICATED STUFF?
PLAY-TIME!

SFX: BOOM/ BOOM/ BOOM/
SFX: SWOOSH
BY THE WAY, SHUANG..
Flying attacks
YES?
THERE ARE SHENZI WHO HAVE THOSE BETTER THAN THE REST, RIGHT?
SFX: BOOM/ BOOM/
INSTANTANEOUS MUSCULAR POWER, VISUAL ACUITY...
NOW THAT YOU'RE WATCHING HIM UP CLOSE, HOW DO YOU THINK HE'S DOING?
HE'S MANAGED TO DODGE ALL THE ATTACKS, SO FAR
SFX: BOOM/ BOOM/

... WHY IS A FRACTIONAL SHENZI, WHO ISN'T ASSIGNED TO A J NUMBER YET AND IS STILL IN THE RESEARCH STAGE, ALLOWED TO FIGHT?
NOT MUCH IS KNOWN ABOUT 50/9, EVERY TIME WE TRY TO ACCESS HIS PHYSICAL PROWESS AND MENTAL JUDGEMENT, WE GET A SCATTERED SET OF DATA
I SEE. SO THIS DOUBLES AS AN ASSESSMENT OF HIS ABILITIES
STILL, A SIMPLE ASSESSMENT DOESN'T WARRANT SKATING ON THIN ICE.
I DON'T GET IT WHAT DOES SHUANG EXPECT FROM 50/9?
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING SPECIAL ABOUT HIS POWERS
WHEN THIS IS OVER,
...HE'LL BE PROMOTED TO A J NUMBER FROM A MERE GUINEA PIG HE'LL BE FREE...

I can understand if it's to tease him. He IS a moron.

SFX: POW!
SFX: PWOC
WHOA!
Awesome! That's it!
BARE-HANDED!
HOW'S THAT?! DID IT GET HIM?
THAT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION, THOUGH.
SFX: WHAM!

SFX: WHAM
NO SHIT.
IT DIDN'T WORK ON HIM.
WHAT ?!
SFX: CRUSH
I DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST HIM. WHAT AM I GOING TO DO NOW?
WHAT THE HELL IS HIS BODY MADE OF?
He's got a lot of stuff and a decent army backing him up. I'm screwed.
If I at least had powers like him...
SFX: CLING
SFX: COUGH COUGH
HAVEN'T I ALWAYS WANTED...
"TO BE FREE?
BUT
FORGET IT. I'M CALLING IT QUITS.
SFX: GRIP
THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO COME AT IT.
I think

SFX: ROAR! ROAR!
WHAT?! WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT RUNNING?!
OH, YOU'RE NOT?
JUST SO YOU KNOW, THERE'S NO GETTING AWAY FROM THIS
SFX: PISSED
WELL ...
IF YOU SAY SO..
GUESS IT'S MY TURN.
SFX: HOP
Rather, it never even occurs! to him
TALK ABOUT ANNOYING!
NO NEED FOR THAT! I WON'T RUN OFF!
I'M BEING WATCHED WHEREEVER I GO!
ON SATELLITE "MANMIDE"
NO MATTER WHERE YOU RUN OFF TO, THE SATELLITE WILL BE ABLE TO GET HOLD OF YOU..
VIA THE CHIP PLANTED IN YOUR BODY.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!
DON'T YOU DARE BUTT IN!

SFX: FREEZE
UGH!
HOW EXACTLY?
Uh..
HE REALLY IS A BLOCK-HEAD
Mine is fire.
THESE ABILITIES ARE CONTROLLED BY CHI.
IT'S LIKE GATHERING CHI IN YOUR HANDS. YOU CAN TRY IT
EVERY SHENZI HAS HIS OR HER OWN SPECIFIC ABILITIES
SFX: SNAP
I DON'T THINK YOU CAN DO IT, THOUGH.
YOU ARE SO IRRI-TATING
YOU TALK BIG LIKE THE REST OF THEM
I'VE BEEN DEPRIVED OF MY FREE-DOM BY THE LIKES OF THEM FOR SO LONG
... AND NOW YOU'RE TELLING ME TO RISK MY NECK FOR MY FREEDOM
.. WHILE YOU LOSERS JUST SIT BACK AND WATCH ON THE DAMNED SIDELINES.
In my case, you're the one who told me to keep out
Oh, crap!
I made her cry!
TO THINK THAT I ACTUALLY LIKED YOU!
IS THAT HOW YOU SEE ME?
HOW COULD YOU?

SFX: PFFT
OH, BUT YOU'RE SO FUN TO TERSE!
THAT IS SO FREAKING ANNOYING ABOUT YOU!
GRIN
I JUST FELT LIKE TERSING YOU
Fooled ya
SFX: BOOM!
YOU PISS ME OFF, BUT I'LL TAKE YOUR ADVICE FOR NOW!
GOT-CHA!!
OOH
WA-TER PO-WER
YOUR POWERS ARE TOO WEAK, THAT'S WHY I SAID IT WOULDN'T WORK.
I'm gonna beat you up later!
NO FREAKIN' DIFFER-ENCE!!
SFX: BOOM/ BOOM/
SFX: SSHHHH
Unscathed

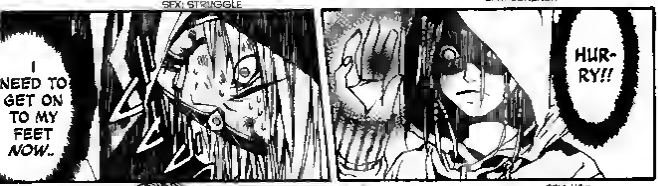
SFX: GLOW
SOME-THING'S DIFFE-RENT...
.. TO KILL THIRTY-SIX PEOPLE IN A FLASH
THE EVIL GUY'S ATTACKS DON'T SEEM POWERFUL ENOUGH
WHAT IS?
Let's just leave him alone for now
BUT ISN'T IT WEIRD?
SFX: BOUNCE BOUNCE

Uhhh
Yipes!
WH-WHOA AAAA AAA!!
What the hell was that?!
HE HADN'T BEEN SERIOUS
NO WONDER,
SFX: CLANG
SFX: BOOM BOOM
YOU ASS! IF I'D TAKEN THAT HEAD ON, I'D HAVE BEEN BLOWN TO PIECES!
SFX: SLIP

IDIOT!
SFX: CRASH
SFX: WHAM WHAM

.....
CRAP, CRAP, CRAP!
SFX: COUGH
UH-OH...

I CAN'T STAND?!
SFX: STRUGGLE
SFX: SCRUNCH


I NEED TO GET ON TO MY FEET NOW..
HUR-RY!!
SFX: HO

If you'd been an ordinary human, you would've been dead.
TAKES A LOT OF EFFORT TO STAND UP, EH?
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BROKEN A FEW RIBS.
... OR I'M DEAD ...

NO CHOICE, THEN.
I'LL ..
... TEACH YOU ALL ABOUT CHI.
SHE'S GATHERING THE AIR AROUND HER...

YAN LONG* !!

*Flame Dragon

SFX: BOOM/ BOOM/ BOOM/

SFX: LOOM
WOW.. ONE ATTACK AND...
Yeah!
SFX: F ASH
SFX: SL M
NO WAY!
I WON'T MAKE IT—

SFX: PSSH
SFX: TIN
SFX: SLIDE
I'M FINE...
I DID GET OUT OF THE DIRECT BLOW ALIVE...
I'M SURE ANOTHER ATTACK OF YAN LONG WILL GET HIM SQUARE.
I MEAN...
SFX: SCRUNCH
... I HAVE TO DO IT...

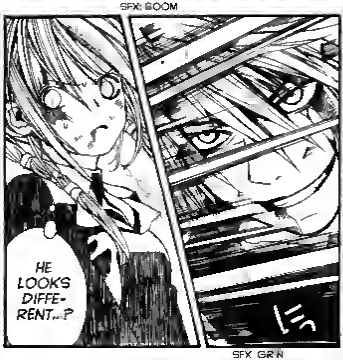
I WANT TO GO OUTSIDE, JUST ONCE.
NO, WE CAN'T ALLOW YOU THAT.
THIS PLACE IS GETTING ON MY NERVES.
IT WAS A DARK AND CONFINED PLACE.
THOSE DAYS OF BEING WATCHED NEVER SEEMED TO END.
ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT WAS MY DESIRE TO GET OUT.
AND YET...
... THEY WON'T LET ME OUT, EVEN ONCE?
I'LL GIVE YOU FREEDOM IF YOU BEAT THE MONSTER.
WHY AM I STUCK IN THIS PLACE?

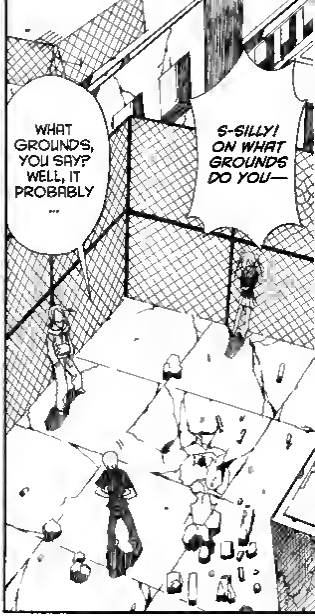
... I CAN'T GET ON MY FEET.
I CAN'T...
THE THING...
... THAT I'VE BEEN CRAVING FOR SO HOPELESSLY SO DESPERATELY...
... SHE'S LOST SO MUCH BLOOD OVER THIS EVEN THOUGH SHE'S A GIRL.
BUT J.J. IS STILL TRYING TO STAND ON HER FEET. SHE STILL HAS SOME TRICKS IN HER SLEEVE.
NO.
ARGH ...
... IS ALMOST THERE WITHIN MY REACH...
... AND YET I CAN'T ... AN INCH FROM THIS SPOT?
ARGHHHHHH!
ARGHHHHHHH!!

HONEST-LY...
HOW PATHE-TIC
?!
SFX: WHEEZE
HEY, MONSTER! I'M THE GUY YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO FIGHT!
DON'T CHANGE AS YOU PLEASE!
MORON, I TOLD YOU TO TAKE A NAP!
YOU'RE EVEN MORE BADLY HURT THAN ME! I CAN STILL—
SHUT UP! HOW CAN I JUST SIT AND WATCH...
... A BRAT BLEED TO DEATH?!
Wipe off your blood!
SFX: GASP
I AM NOT A KID!
YOU SURE LOOK LIKE ONE!
I'M A GIRL!
SHUT IT, BRAT!
AND ANYWAY, YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO HANDLE YOUR CHI! HOW ARE YOU—
TRUE.

I DON'T HAVE THE SLIGHTEST IDEA HOW.
Are you sure...?
!
SFX: HEH HEH HEH...
フッフッフ・・・
BUT I CAN DO IT.

SFX: BOOM


HE LOOKS DIFFE-RENT...?


S-SILLY! ON WHAT GROUNDS DO YOU—
WHAT GROUNDS, YOU SAY? WELL, IT PROBABLY ...
SFX: GRIN

THIS IT IT, RIGHT?!
SFX: SWALLOW
SFX: SWOOP
SFX: SWOOSH
SFX: WHOOSH
SFX: SWERVE
... FROM JUST ONE LOOK ?!
HE LEARNED THAT ...
AND ...

...ARE THOSE TWIN DRA-GONS?!
...?!
SFX: KR-BOOM!
WHITE SFX: CRUMBLE CRUMBLE CRUMBLE

SFX: ZSSHH

SFX: ZSSHH

さあ

あ

あ

あ

I WASN'T MUCH OF A HELP.
Wh-a y-u cant see the bottom!
BUT... I'M SO ASHAMED OF MY-SELF.
OWW !!
I WON THANKS TO YOU.
IF YOU HADN'T STOOD UP THEN...
NAH
SFX: THUNP
BR..
BRRNP
YOU WERE REALLY AWESOME.
SORRY FOR CALLING YOU ANNO-YING.
SFX: CLANG
THIS IS MY TRUE—
BWA HA HA HA HA! DID YOU SEE THAT, J.T?!
HE'S ALMOST A MON-STER.
BUT SERIOUSLY, I UNDER-ESTIMATED THIS GUY. SHUANG WAS RIGHT,
IS HE DUMB?
My cage! My cage!
Oh no!
UGH! CAN'T LAUGH !!
Buwan-n Hargh, hargh...

IT'S OVER, ISN'T IT, J.I?
ACK! I TOTALLY FORGOT!
WE'RE A TOTAL MESS. COME AND GET US QUICK.
YES, I'LL BE THERE SOON.
SFX: FLIP FLIP FLIP
I'M ALREADY THERE.
SFX: BEEP!
SFX: FLIP FLIP FLIP
YIKES!
Hmmm.
THERE GOES MORE MONEY DOWN THE DRAIN.

J1 thats now how you play with people

HE'S AN EX-SHENZI WHO RAN AWAY FROM THE LAB.
AS YOU KNOW, SHENZI ARE THE PEOPLE WHO WENT THROUGH *THE* BRAIN SURGERY.
THERE WAS A 100 PERCENT CHANCE OF THEM GETTING SUPERHUMAN POWERS — THE PERFECT SUCCESS RATE.
!
90 PERCENT OF ALL SHENZI
BUT AT THE SAME TIME, THE PROJECT ALSO BROUGHT UNFORSEEN HARM.
... MEANING NEARLY EVERY ONE OF THEM — WENT INSANE.
THAT IS CORRECT.
!

THE FIGHT JUST NOW WAS MEANT AS A TEST TO SEE IF THERE WAS ANYTHING WRONG WITH YOU...
... AND TO ASSESS THE POSSIBILITY OF YOUR TURNING INTO ANOTHER H.H IN THE FUTURE.
THOSE DEEMED ALL CLEAR ARE GIVEN FREEDOM AS "J" NUMBERS.
AND THOSE DEEMED CRAZY ARE PUT UNDER CUSTODY AS "H" NUMBERS.
YOU'LL NEVER BE FREE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
SORRY TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT YOU'VE BEEN ASSIGNED AN "H" NUMBER.
IN FACT, YOU'LL BE SUBJECT TO AN EVEN STRICTER CONFINEMENT THAN BEFORE.
WHAT —?!

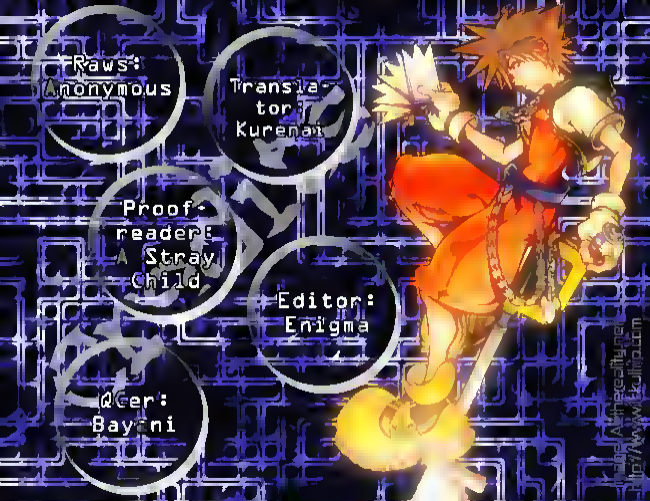
Whoa!
... IS WHAT I WANTED TO TELL YOU, AS A JOKE.
SFX: STUMBLE

OOH! HE'S SEETHING WITH RAGE!
I WAS WRONG TO CHANGE MY OPINION OF HER/ SHE REALLY IS A PAIN IN THE ASS/ JUST WAIT 'TILL I KILL HER!
SFX: GRIT GRIT

I'M NOT AUTHO-RIZED TO DECIDE, YOU KNOW.
SFX: GUFFAW GIFFAW

CONGRA-TULATIONS, 50/9. YOU ARE NOW J.5.
AND FREE AS PROMISED.
One of the authorities
THE DECISION TO ASSIGN YOU A "J" NUMBER WAS A DIFFICULT ONE — YOU BARELY MADE IT.
BUT IT WAS SET IN STONE THE MO-MENT YOU HELPED J.1.
COURSE!

I ONLY WENT THIS FAR...
... TO GET MY FREE-DOM!
HE'S GONE; I HAVEN'T EVEN GONE THROUGH THE DETAILS YET...
Whaaa!
Like the chip and the hospital.
He's forgotten all about his ribs.
A FOOL'S A FOOL, EVEN IN PRIN...
.....
.....
SFX: SHRIKE SHRIKE
SFX: PINCH
SFX: POKE
COME ON, DON'T YOU WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH HIM?
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SO ELATED IN AGES.
That nitwit's too much to handle!
N-NO WAY.
WHAT?! WHY ME?!
SO, CATCH HIM FOR ME, WILL YOU?
Dwell
BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN.
FINE! I GET IT ALREADY! I'M OFF!
Appeared in Shounen Gan Gan February 2004 Issue.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http://www.iskultep.com

SFX: CLANG CLANG

SFX: CLANG CLANG CLANG

SFX: ZZZ

SFX: GASP!

SFX: SKRCH (3x)

The train is leaving

DANG!
SFX: CLANG CLANG
...OH.
SIGN: "SAKURAGAWA"
SFX: PSSH
CRUD.
Augh...
I GOT THE WRONG STATION.
SFX: SCRATCH SCRATCH

桜雪
さくら
ゆき

TALK ABOUT RURAL!
WHY IS THERE A ONE-HOUR INTERVAL BETWEEN TRAINS?
IT'S ANOTHER HOUR UNTIL THE NEXT TRAIN.
SHIT. I'LL HAVE TO WALK HOME.

SFX: STEP

SFX: STARE
SHE'S FROM MY SCHOOL
BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN HER AROUND
SFX: STEP STEP
SFX: STARE
SFX: STEP STEP
SFX: STARE
HEY.
What is it?
HI THERE!
SFX: SMILE
.....
HUH?

I'M SO HAPPY NORMALLY, PEOPLE IGNORE ME.
KURO? SOME CAT?
NO, NO.
IT'S A DOG. A BIG BLACK DOG.
UH...
You tricked me
This guy
DO YOU KNOW KURO?
HE'S REALLY SMART AND SWEET.
HE'S AN OLD DOG SO HE USUALLY WAITS FOR ME.
WHEN HE'S SPACING OUT, HE LOOKS LIKE A STUFFED DOG
HE USED TO STAY WITH ME ALL THE TIME.
Warm
AND HE'S SO WARM AND FLUFFY
AND... AND...

SFX: CHEERY
MY NAME IS KISARAGI SAKURA!
HOW ABOUT YOU!?
.....
I SEE.
SFX: DEJECTED
NOPE, DON'T KNOW HIM
OK. WHY IS SHE SO CHEERFUL?
KARU-KAMI
IT'S KARU-KAMI!!
KARU-KAN!
SFX: POINT
OH!
SFX: HIT
KA-WA-KA-MI
KAMI-SHI-RO
KA-RU-KA-RU...
None of your guesses were right.
Huh?
WHAT A WEIRDO

SFX: SHIVER
SFX: RUSTLE
Ugh
ブルル
ア ア ア
AREN'T YOU COLD AFTER SITTING OUT HERE FOR SO LONG?
Though it's already spring
NUH-UH
LOOK. THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS LOOK LIKE SNOW
DO THEY?
THEY'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A NUI-SANCE

That was quick...
GONE...
HEY, DID YOU SAY "AGAIN"?!
SFX: SPIN
ZAZAZA..
BYE! SEE YOU AGAIN SOON!
YEAH...
SFX: STEP STEP STEP
SFX: RAISE
"SEE YOU AGAIN", HUH...?
I'm not coming back here...
NOT YOU..
...AGAIN

KARU-KAMI...
...YOU'RE A PAIN IN THE ASS.
WHY THE HELL—
...ARE YOU SMI-LING?
OH?
JUST BE CAUSE
SFX: GRIN
YOU —!!

SFX. PUMMEL GRASP
YOU!!
AUGH!
HEY!
SFX. KICK
...!!
I LIKE FIGHTING.

A WHOLE LOT BETTER...
OW!
Ow ow...
THAN THOSE WHO LIE THROUGH THEIR TEETH
THE STRONG ALWAYS WIN AND THE WEAK ALWAYS LOSE
CLEARLY BETTER...
SFX: BUMP
SHIT... IT'S BABA THE SQUIRT
Talk about unbalanced naming
KARUKAMI!
YOU GOT INTO ANOTHER FIGHT ON THE SCHOOL GROUNDS, DIDN'T YOU?!
How did you get those cuts and bruises?
Smirk
GO AHEAD.
DO YOU WANT TO GET EXPELLED?!
WOULD YOU STOP GIVING ME EVEN MORE PROBLEMS AND LISTEN TO ME INSTEAD?!
HOW MANY MORE FIGHTS ARE YOU GOING TO PICK?!

SFX: CREAK
Hmph
WHO ARE YOU KIDDING? THE ONLY THING YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT IS YOUR OWN HIDE
WHAT YOU REALLY MEAN IS THAT YOU ONLY THINK PEOPLE WHO ACTUALLY LISTEN TO YOU ARE YOUR PETS
WHY CAN'T YOU JUST ADMIT THAT YOU NEED HELP?
WOR-RIED, EH?
YES! WHY CAN'T YOU BELIEVE IN PEOPLE MORE?
SFX: GRIP
I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU, YOU KNOW?
I DON'T CARE WHEN I DIE
IS IT EVEN WORTH IT TO WORRY ABOUT SOME-ONE LIKE...
KARU-KAMI!
SFX: SLAM!!
Tch.
.....
WHAT?

SO DAMNED PISSED!
I FEEL SO PISSED.
SFX: STEP STEP
FREAKING RILED UP!
HELL, I'M RILED UP.
ABOUT EVERY SINGLE SHIT!!!
SFX: RATTLE RATTLE SLAM
SFX: HI-HA!
YO! WHAT'S UP, KARUKAMI? YOU—

THAT FREAKING MIDGET PISSES ME OFF!
I'M SO SICK OF LISTENING TO HIM NAG!
SFX: KICK
SFX: CLANG CLANG
HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
THIS GUY...! I WONDER WHAT THAT MIDGET-SENSEI TOLD HIM?
SFX: DRAG
SFX: BUZZ BUZZ
He was hard on you, huh?
.....
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND MIDGET-SENSEI?
THIS SUCKS. I'M OUT.
HUH? NOT THE GREATEST IDEA.

HEY, KARUKAMI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?!
KARUKAMI! THIS IS THE SECOND FLOOR !

THIS IS JUST SO BORING I'D SOONER DIE.
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS THROW MYSELF ONTO THE RAILWAY.
THE IMPACT WOULD BE SO GREAT, IT WOULD COST A BUNDLE.
LIKE "WHAM"! I'D BE BLOWN EVERY-WHERE TO PIECES.
SFX: RUFFLE RUFFLE RUFFLE
EVERY-THING'S JUST SO DAMNED STUPID.
.....
step
step
WHOA, NOT A SCRATCH. WHAT STUFF IS HE MADE OF, ANYWAY?
SCARY
He's still wearing his indoor shoes
THAT GUY'S BASICALLY SUICIDAL.
HEY, KARU-KAMI!!

↑ Not counting himself

IS HE YOUR FAMILY DOG?
UH-HUH.
WHY DID I COME HERE AGAIN?
INSTEAD OF WAITING FOR HIM IN THE COLD LIKE THIS...
... HOW ABOUT YOU GO HOME AND WAIT THERE?
NAH. THIS IS WHERE HE'D USUALLY WAIT FOR ME...
... SO, I'M STAYING HERE.
SO, WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME HE CAME BACK?
I FORGOT. WAY, WAY BACK.
WAY BACK? LIKE A MONTH?
MAYBE.

TEE HEE HEE.
WHAT?! I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT I'M HEARING! ARE YOU STUPID?!
IT WASN'T A COMPLI-MENT
TEE HEE HEE.
LOOK... IF HE HASN'T BEEN COMING FOR SO LONG ...
... DON'T YOU THINK HE STOPPED COMING FOR GOOD?

YOU THINK HE'S STILL OBEY YOU JUST BECAUSE HE WAS ONCE YOUR DOG?
MAYBE HE GOT ATTACHED TO THAT PERSON. SURELY, YOU CAN SEE SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENING, RIGHT?
...HE GOT LOST AND SOMEBODY FOUND HIM OR SOMETHING
SAY
Gotta be careful and give her a mild example
IT'S THE SAME WITH PEOPLE, YOU KNOW. WHAT COUNTS THE MOST IS WHAT'S IN IT FOR THEM
I'M NOT SAYING IT'S A BAD THING I'M LIKE THAT MYSELF
YOU CAN USE YOUR PRETTY WORDS AND ALL, BUT, DEEP DOWN, PEOPLE ONLY THINK ABOUT THEMSELVES.
STILL— WHY ARE YOU SO CONFIDENT HE'LL SHOW UP?
GO HOME. GIVE IT UP ALREADY.

DON'T YOU BELIEVE IN ANY-THING, KARU-KARU?
SFX: FLUSH
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!
I'M TALKING COMMON SENSE HERE! COMMON SENSE!!
?
Don't you get it?!
Nope, guess not.
SFX: UGH!
ARGH, WHAT GIVES?! I'M BETTING MY MONEY THE DOG'S NOT COMING.

IN THAT CASE..
... I'M BETTING HE WILL COME.
SFX: GRIN
SHE DOES NOT GET IT.
SHOULDN'T IT BE OBVIOUS IF THE DOG HASN'T COME BACK FOR A MONTH ALREADY?
I EVEN TOLD HER CLEARLY THAT SHE SHOULD JUST CALL IT QUITS.
SFX: LONELY
SFX: GRUMBLE
SFX: T-CHOO!
WHY DID I JUST STOP HERE TO CHAT?
I'm freezing here!
FORGET IT I'M GOING HOME

SEE YA.
HEE HEE I'M GLAD YOU'RE COMING AGAIN. I'M USUALLY ALL ALONE HERE
HO-NESTLY.
WHY DO I EVEN BO-THER?
YOU'RE A NICE GUY, KAIKU-KANE!
WHERE ARE YOU LOOKING AT?!
DO YOU HAVE HOLES FOR EYES?!
SFX: POINT
SFX: COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO!
SFX: CHIRP CHI...
THE NEXT MORNING...
SFX: SNIFF
AH... AH... AT-CHOO! SHIT!
AGH...
I'VE CAUGHT A COLD FOR REAL.
SO...

IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S ANYWHERE TO BE FOUND!
I WON'T GAIN ANYTHING BY DOING THIS!
WHY AM I DOING THIS AGAIN?
IT'S POINTLESS!!
... WHY EXACTLY AM I LOOKING FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S DOG FIRST THING IN THE MORNING?!
I even skipped school
SFX: FLAIL
SOMETHING IS DEFINITELY WRONG WITH ME!
Even if I'd gone to school I wouldn't be doing anything better
ARGH!!!
SFX: STARE
SFX: WOOF WOOF
"... YOU'RE A NICE GUY, KABUKANE"
NAH, HER DOG'S SUPPOSED TO BE A LOT BIGGER.
BLACK DOG...
WHAT IS IT?
(Are you a dog psychic?)
OH, WELL... UH...
SFX: STARE
BUT I WOULDN'T KNOW...

HUH?
OH, YOU MEAN KURO, THE KISARAGI'S DOG?
YEAH, I KNOW HIM.
D-DO YOU KNOW OF A DOG ABOUT THIS BIG? A BLACK ONE NAMED KURO?
THIS ISN'T LIKE ME, DAMN IT.
SFX: GRIT
HE GOT INTO AN ACCIDENT A FEW MONTHS AGO
WAIT. SOMETHING DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT.
OF COURSE HE COULDN'T COME BACK.
I TOLD HER NOT TO KEEP HER HOPES UP. JEEZ.
IF HER NEIGHBORS KNOW ABOUT THE ACCIDENT, HOW COME SHE'S IN THE DARK?
WAITING FOR HIM WHEN HE CAN'T GO SEE HER. WHAT AN IDIOT.
THAT IDIOT.
SO ALL THIS TIME, SHE'S BEEN WAITING FOR A DOG THAT GOT INTO AN ACCIDENT?

SFX: CREAK
キィ
YES?
SAKURA-SAN
THAT'S RIGHT. THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE HER HOME.
UH..
UM.
SFX: UGH
ゴーズ..
UH... SORT OF.
YEAH, RIGHT.
ARE YOU A FRIEND OF HERS?

SAKURA'S PASSED AWAY.
-OH.-
BUT, JUST YESTER-DAY.
.....
.....
I'M SMILING LIKE AN IDIOT.

THAT DAY...
...IT HAD BEEN SNOWING ALL DAY LONG
SHE'D ALWAYS BEEN FRAGILE. THE HOSPITAL WAS LIKE HER SECOND HOME
SFX: STOW
EVEN THE DOCTOR DIDN'T EXPECT HER TO LIVE LONG
BUT, BY THEN, SHE HAD ALL BUT STOPPED GOING
SFX: HUFF
AND YET, SHE STILL MANAGED TO GO TO SCHOOL.
SHE NEVER COMPLAINED ...
...NO MATTER HOW HARD OR PAINFUL IT WAS FOR HER. INSTEAD, SHE KEPT SMILING.
EVEN THOUGH HER ILLNESS WAS NO LIGHT BURDEN...
... SHE NEVER SHOWED IT.
THAT WAS THE KIND OF GIRL SHE WAS.
SHE HAD A DOG AN OLD DOG
THEY WERE VERY CLOSE
HE WAS ALWAYS FOLLOWING HER AROUND.

AND WHEN SAKURA HAD TO GO TO SCHOOL OR TO THE HOSPITAL ..
... HE WOULD WAIT FOR HER AT THE TRAIN STATION.

EVERY SINGLE DAY
... WITHOUT FAIL

PRO-BABLY ..
.. THE ONE THING THAT KEPT THE SMILE ON HER FACE..
... WAS SEEING KURO WAIT FOR HER THERE.

HE MUST HAVE BEEN HER MORAL SUPPORT, EVEN MORE THAN WE EVER IMAGINED
BECAUSE OF HER SICKNESS, SHE DIDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS

I'M SO HAPPY. NORMALLY, PEOPLE IGNORE ME
DO YOU KNOW KURO?
IS SHE STUPID OR WHAT?!
SHE DOESN'T EVEN NOTICE SHE'S DEAD!
WHY DIDN'T HE EVEN SUSPECT IT?!
DON'T YOU BELIEVE IN ANYTHING, KARU-KARU?
KARU-KAMI!
EVERY THING IS JUST SO DAMNED STUPID
ALL I EVER DID WAS WHINE.

I WAS SKEPTICAL ABOUT EVERYTHING.
I'D SOONER DIE
AND YET I WAS COMPLAINING ABOUT HOW BORED I WAS WITHOUT GIVING A THOUGHT.
HEE HEE. I'M GLAD YOU'RE COMING BACK AGAIN. USUALLY, I'M ALL ALONE HERE.
BUT FOR HER...

... ALL THAT WAS LEFT FOR HER WAS HER CONVICTION.
SFX: SILUTE
SFX: SCRUNCH
OH?
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO TELL HER?
WHY DID YOU COME TO THIS SIDE TODAY?
YOUR DOG WON'T BE COMING...
...AND YOU'RE!
YOO-HOO!
KURO! YOU'RE HERE!

NOT LONG AFTER SAKURA DIED, KURO THREW HIMSELF AT A CAR, AS THOUGH TO FOLLOW HER IN DEATH.
HE HAD NEVER GONE ANYWHERE NEAR CARS BEFORE.
HE SOMEHOW SURVIVED THE CRASH.
..BUT THIS MORNING, HE FINALLY...
KURO!
I WON THE BET!!
Heh heh

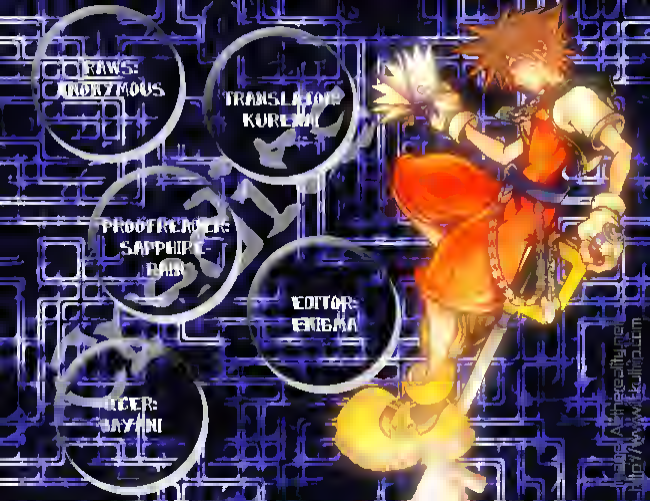
.. YEAH
I LOST BIG TIME.
YOU KNOW ..
.. I DO THINK YOU'RE A NICE GUY, KARUKAMI
HUH? YOU ARE COMING WITH ME?
きゅーん
GOT-CHA.
BYE!
SO LONG.
SHE'S GOT MY NAME CORRECTLY FOR ONCE.
SFX TUG

I KNOW WHY I COULD NOT IGNORE HER, THOUGH.
HAH.
I SEE NOW THAT'S WHY I WAS SO PISSED.
BETTER THAN REBELLIOUS, THOUGH.
THE GIRL WAS WAY TOO OPTIMISTIC RIGHT TO THE VERY END.
SFX: GRIT
SFX: WHOOSH
IT'S TRUE.
THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS DO LOOK LIKE SNOW.
DON'T YOU THINK SHE'S A STUPID OWNER?
SHE'S BEEN WAITING FOR YOU ALL THIS TIME WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING SHE WAS DEAD.
SO YOU DID THAT SO YOU GUYS COULD GO TOGETHER?
AT THE VERY LAST MOMENT

WHAT IN THE WORLD ...
... IS WRONG WITH THAT KARUKAMI BOY?!
FIGHTING IN SCHOOL GROUNDS, JUMPING OFF THE SECOND FLOOR...
...AND ABSENT THE NEXT DAY!
IT'S NO USE ARGUING ABOUT THAT STUDENT.
HE MOCKS US TEACHERS.
SFX: QUIVER QUIVER
SUCH A STUDENT DESERVES NOTHING LESS THAN PUNISHMENT!
EVEN SO, PUNISHMENTS MEAN NOTHING TO SOME STUDENTS.
A CASE LIKE THIS...
BABA-SENSEI—
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS DEFEND HIM?
... CALLS FOR EXPUL—
ONE MOMENT, PLEASE!

KARUKAMI IS NOT LIKE THAT!
HE IS ACTUALLY A DECENT ENOUGH BOY.
THIS GUY, TOO, HUH?
SFX: GASP!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "YO"?! FOR SOME REASON, THEY'RE ONLY SUSPENDING YOU!
THINGS WERE GOING DOWNHILL FOR YOU THIS TIME!! DO YOU REALLY UNDERSTAND --
.....
SFX: MUMBLE
...YO.
SFX: BUMP

HEY
OWW!
SORRY, SENSEI.
EVIL STINKING PIP-SQUEAK
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY THAT IN MY FACE!
I'M STILL ANGRY WITH YOU. SO YOU'RE GOING TO GET A WHOLE LOAD OF HOMEWORK FROM ME DURING YOUR SUSPENSION PERIOD.


RAWS:
ANONYMOUS
TRANSLATION:
KUREMI
PROOFREADER:
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EDITOR:
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"BOOK OF GENESIS CHAPTER 11 VERSE 3"

"GO TO, LET US BUILD OURSELVES A CITY AND A TOWER, WHOSE TOP MAY REACH UNTO HEAVEN."

AND THEY SAID UNTO ONE ANOTHER,

*It's actually Chapter 11 Verse 4, but why split hairs?

IT WAS AN ERA WHEN THERE WAS ONLY ONE CIVILIZATION.

PEOPLE WANTED KNOWLEDGE, AND, WITH THEIR OWN HANDS, THEY BUILT A COLOSSAL TOWER.

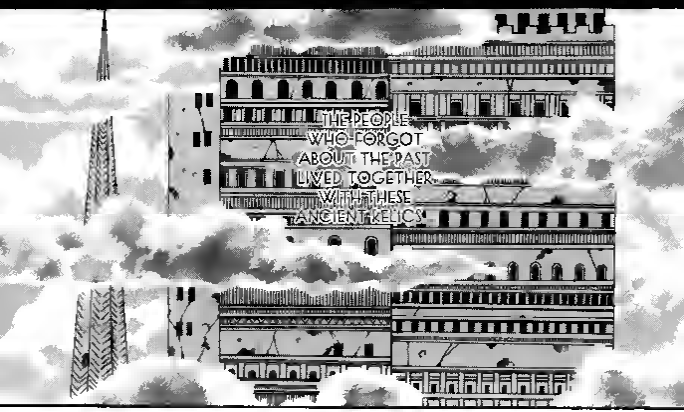
A TOWER SO BIG, IT COULD REACH HEAVEN...

TOWER OF BABEL

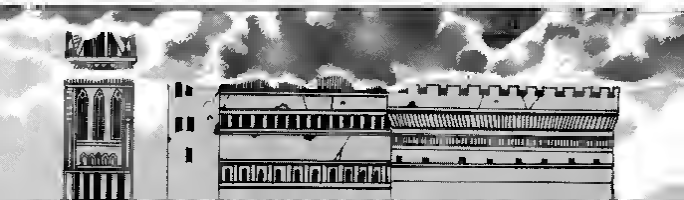
IT WAS BUILT SO THEY COULD SHOW THEMSELVES OFF TO THE GODS.

THE RULER CREATED OBEDIENT ROBOT SERVANTS AND HEADED TOWARDS THE TOP... THE REMAINING PEOPLE FOLLOWED AND ALSO SECLUDED THEMSELVES..
THE RULER AND THE FEW PEOPLE WHO WERE LEFT BEHIND WERE AT A LOSS..
IT IS SAID THAT THE PEOPLE STRUCK BY GOD'S WRATH TURNED INTO DIFFERENT CIVILIANS AND WERE SCATTERED ABOUT OVER NIGHT...

TIME PASSED...



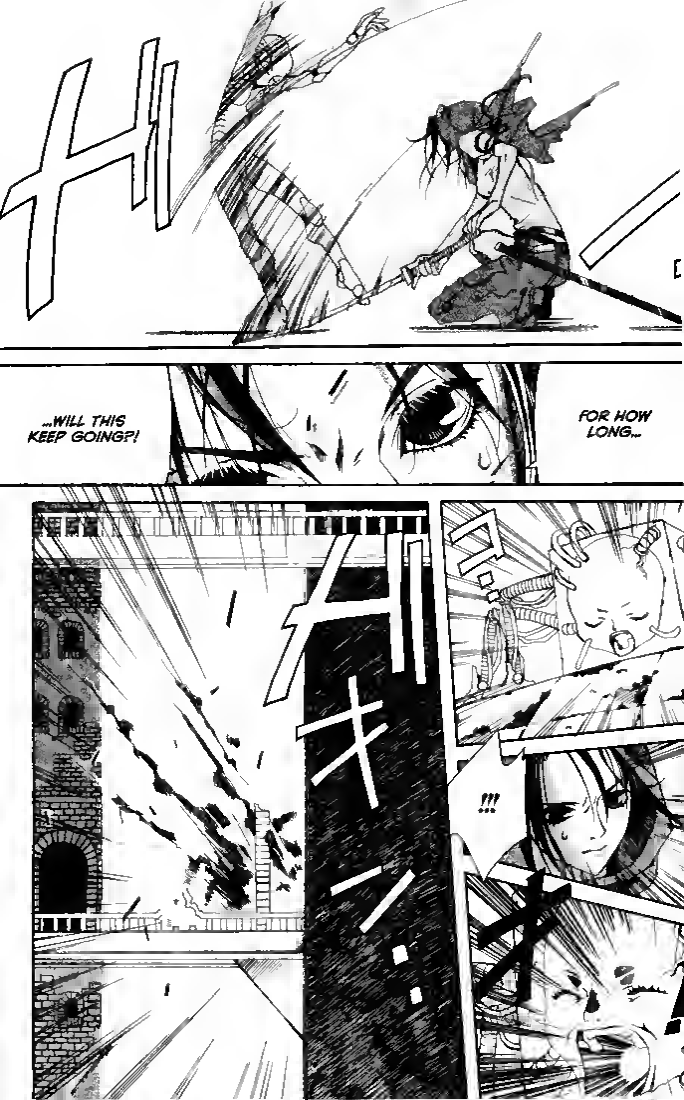
WITH ROBOTS AND AN ENORMOUS TOWER...



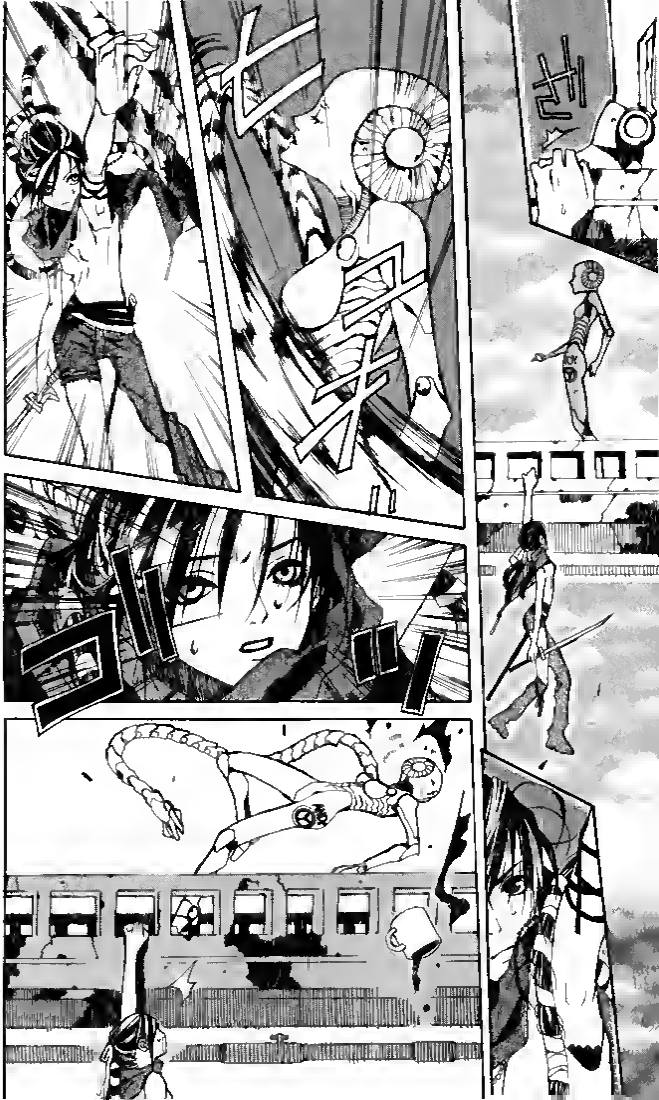
混乱の塔

はぁ
ヒュー
!

I HAVE TO FIND THE CONTROLS THAT WILL TURN THESE ROBOTS BACK TO NORMAL QUICKLY...!!
IS IT USE-LESS TO TALK?
IRRES-PONSIBLE! SNAP OUT OF IT!


...WILL THIS KEEP GOING?!
FOR HOW LONG...
!!!

TCH...
よしっ
うお
おおおおおお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DON'T BE SO NOISY IN THE MOR- NING
ガ!
ガ!!

KU-SHA!
...HEH.
MY PRECIOUS COFFEE IS RUINED
AH
ARE YOU OKAY?
DON'T TAKE ME LIGHTLY. I'M ASCENDING FROM HERE.

YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWING ME SINCE THE LOWER FLOORS.
YOU ARE A SWORD'S-MAN, RIGHT?
.....
七
ゴッ。
WELL, HERE I WILL...
.....
NOT.. YOU.
MY NAME IS FAROSE.
I SEE. I'M REICHE. NICE TO MEET YOU.

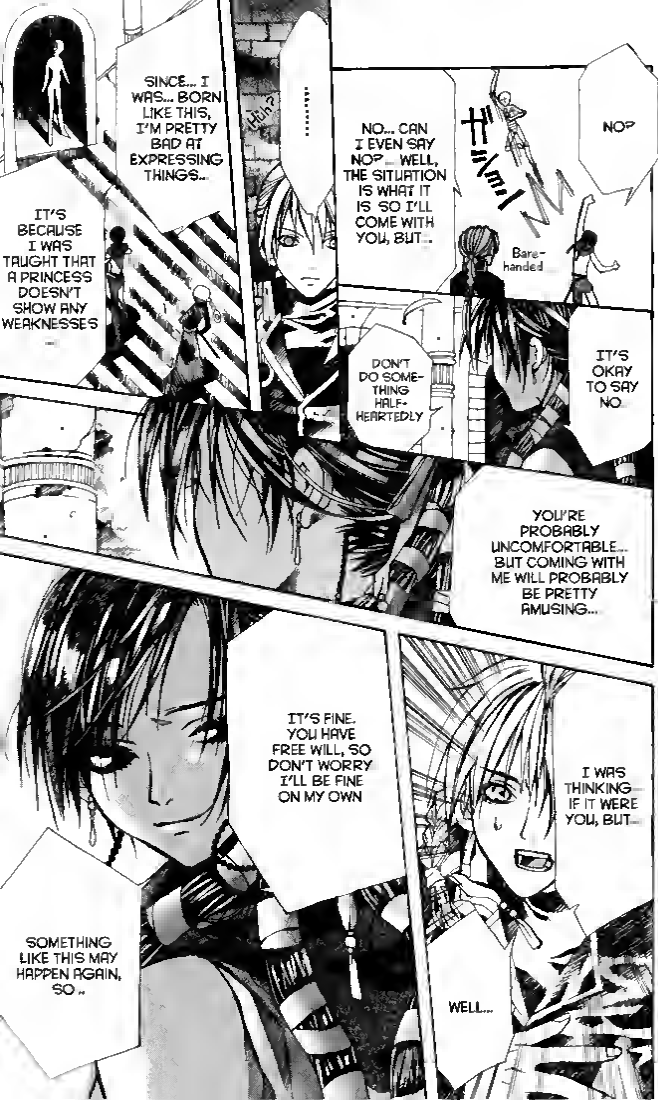
WELL, FA...
REICHE... REICHE? WHERE HAVE I HEARD THAT BEFORE?
AND
HEA-VYY?/
WELL, THAT'S KIND OF HEAVY
Faro is good.
FA-RO-SE...
.....
.....
WOW, WE'RE ABOVE THE CLOUDS!
FARO IS CUTER, DON'T YOU THINK?
THE VERY..
...TOP
ABOVE - WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
YERH.
RIGHT, FARO?
I HAD HEARD FROM ABOVE THAT THINGS ARE INFERIOR FROM HERE, BUT THE VIEW FROM HERE IS PRETTY NICE.

THAT PRINCESS REICHE WHO IS FAMOUS FOR BEING VIOLENT...
!!?
WAIT, BY "REICHE", YOU MEAN "THAT" PRINCESS REICHE?
THAT'S RIGHT. "THAT" PRINCESS REICHE.
THE TOP...?
ONLY PEOPLE LIKE THE KING ARE AT THE TOP ...
...HOW-EVER,
I WONDER WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON LATELY. THE ROBOTS HAVE BEEN WILD AND ARE ATTACKING PEOPLE
THE TOWER'S RESIDENTS ARE SCARED. THEY CLOSE THEIR STORES AND NO ONE WILL COME OUT.
... IN OTHER WORDS, YOU DON'T FIND VALUE IN ANY-THING BESIDES COFFEE?
THANKS TO THAT, I CAN'T GET COFFEE...

CAUSING THAT MUCH DAMAGE REALLY IS A PROBLEM...
AS YOU KNOW, THE ROBOTS WERE BUILT TOGETHER WITH THIS TOWER BY AN ANCIENT CIVILIZATION. THEY LIVED TOGETHER AND THEY SUPPORTED THE PEOPLE
THE CONTROL MECHANISM THAT REGULATES THE ROBOTS IS ALSO ON THE TOP LEVEL OF THIS TOWER.
AS LONG AS THERE'S A CONTROL UNIT, IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE ROBOTS TO GO RAMPANT.
WHAT?!
IT SEEMS THAT THE CONTROL MECHANISM MUST HAVE BEEN STOLEN BY SOMEONE...
I DOUBT THAT THESE ARE THE ACTIONS OF SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO CAUSE CHAOS WITHIN THIS TOWER.

AH, WE NEED TO QUICKLY TAKE BACK THE CONTROLS AND STOP THE ROBOTS' RAMPAGE
SO, THAT'S THE REASON WHY THE ROBOTS HAVE GONE WILD LIKE THIS...
UNFORGIVABLE!!
Ohh!!
AH!! MY LITTLE BIT OF LEFT OVER COFFEE!!
COFFEE
MOCA
WEAK.
Uwaa!!
GYAA!!!
Reserved
THE INFORMATION SAYS THEY'RE IN THE LOWEST LEVEL - WELL, THEY SHOULD BE THERE
THAT THIEF WHO STOLE THE CONTROLS, WHERE...
BY THE WAY...

THE LOWEST FLOOR? I HEARD THERE AREN'T ANY PEOPLE ON THE LOWEST FLOOR
I gotta sick
EVEN SO...
HOWEVER, IT'S POINT-LESS TO GO ALONE.. YEAH
Enemies
HEY, FARO...
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU BROUGHT THIS ON YOUR-SELF..
I CAN'T REALLY SEE IT IN YOU, BUT YOU ARE A SWORDS-MAN, RIGHT?
YOU DON'T REALLY SEEM RELIABLE AND I CAN'T SAY WHETHER A RELUCTANT, SMALL CHILD LIKE YOU WILL BE HELPFUL OR NOT, BUT YOU COULD AT LEAST SHOW ME THE WAY, RIGHT?
COME WITH ME
Enemy
.....


SINCE... I WAS... BORN LIKE THIS, I'M PRETTY BAD AT EXPRESSING THINGS..
IT'S BECAUSE I WAS TAUGHT THAT A PRINCESS DOESN'T SHOW ANY WEAKNESSES
HUH?
.....
NO... CAN I EVEN SAY NO?... WELL, THE SITUATION IS WHAT IT IS SO I'LL COME WITH YOU, BUT...
DON'T DO SOMETHING HALF-HEARTEDLY
NO?
Bare-handed
IT'S OKAY TO SAY NO
YOU'RE PROBABLY UNCOMFORTABLE... BUT COMING WITH ME WILL PROBABLY BE PRETTY AMUSING...
IT'S FINE. YOU HAVE FREE WILL, SO DON'T WORRY I'LL BE FINE ON MY OWN
I WAS THINKING IF IT WERE YOU, BUT...
SOMETHING LIKE THIS MAY HAPPEN AGAIN, SO..
WELL...

BUT, WHAT ABOUT FREE WILL—?!
Enemy
SO, A COLD-HEARTED PERSON LIKE YOU COULD USE YOUR POWER TO ERASE THEM FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH FOR ME!
Enemy
斬
Bubble: JYAGAAA JYAAA!!
I WONDER IF IT WAS MY IMAGINATION.. I HAVE A FEELING I JUST SAW THE PRINCESS EASILY DESTROYING THOSE "TERRIBLE" ROBOTS.
IF SOMEONE SAID A BEAUTIFUL AND FRAGILE PRINCESS LIKE ME WAS ABOUT TO BE ATTACKED BY TERRIBLE ROBOTS
YES, I'D LOVE TO!! (Like a waiter at a pub.)
SO, WILL YOU DO IT? HEH, HEH, HEH
I WONDER..
NORMALLY, PEOPLE ARE SUPPOSED TO WANT TO PROTECT HER FROM THE BOTTOM OF THEIR HEARTS, RIGHT?
NO WAY.
SHOULD I MAKE YOU SPIT IT OUT?
IT SEEMS YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY

ゴオオオン
I'm ser- ously tired.
I'm saved.
TIME FOR LIGHTS OUT?
WE CAN REST NOW, RIGHT?
When morning comes, they'll move again.
WHAT ARE YOU SAY-ING?
WE HAVE TO GO DOWN NOW.
BUT... WE CAN'T SEE AND IT'S DAN-GEROUS.
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO LIGHT A LAMP? LOOK, THERE'S ONE RIGHT HERE.
BUT...

カ!!
OW!!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!
FAIRO... THE LIGHT!
……
たん
たん
IF... IF WE DON'T DOUSE THE FLAMES, THE ROBOT WILL RESPOND TO THE LIGHT
Disturbance
Robo-Activate
Woman who moves on instinct
……
ゴロゴロ
ゴロゴロ
ガシュ

I SAID THAT BEFORE. BUT IF I SAY IT NOW, I'LL PROBABLY GET KILLED..
LET'S REST.
...IS IT OKAY...
...TO GET A LITTLE CLOSER ...?
ARE YOU SCARED OF THE DARK?
...!! YOU'RE WRONG !!!!

WELL... IT'S TRUE.
IT'S PROBABLY SAFER TO MAKE A TIGHT FORMATION.
RIGHT.
すたすた
IF WE'RE ATTACKED, I CAN USE YOU AS A SHIELD AND ESCAPE!
YOU DO REALIZE THAT WHAT YOU CASUALLY SAID JUST NOW WAS VERY CRUEL... RIGHT...?
WHO?!
IF YOU DO ANYTHING WEIRD, I'LL KILL YOU!!

YOU'RE ONLY CHEERFUL NOW...
THERE'S NOTHING FRIGHTENING HERE, RIGHT?

A DREAM...?
GOOD MORNING, MISS REICHE
AH, WHEN THE ROBOTS WEREN'T YET RAMPANT...
GOOD MOR-NING.
CYNTHI...
AH.
...?
DID YOU FORGET? IT'S THE NAME I GAVE YOU YESTER-DAY.

I HATE MORNINGS. I ALWAYS FEEL ALONE.

MOR-
NING
Z
Z
Z
GOO
...D...
MOR-
NING...
TEARS
...?
HOW
RUDE...!!

.. BUT I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ..
IT WAS A YAWN! A YAWN!!!
FARO.. YOU DIDN'T SLEEP ..?
すぅ。
WRONG...!!!! I'M NOT YOU...!!!!
PERHAPS YOU WERE SO SCARED YOU COULDN'T SLEEP?!

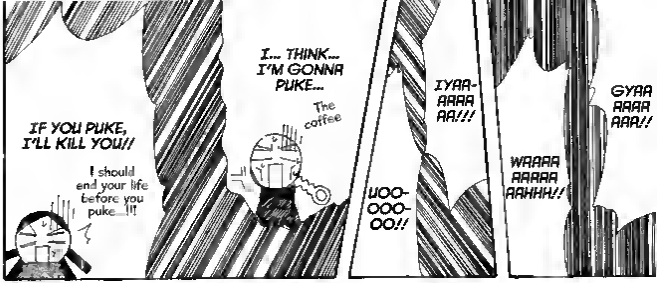
MY HEAD'S... GOING TO SPLIT... AND WHO ARE YOU?!
YOU'VE GOT GUTS.
You said that well
IT'S JUST
I WAS JUST THINKING YOU'RE A "FEISTY" PRINCESS.
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE A FOOL OUT OF ME SOMEHOW.
I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT.
"FEISTY" ...
Are you making fun of me?!
SO DON'T CALL ME PRINCESS!! I'VE BEEN TIRED OF IT ALL ALONG! YOU PUNK!!!
4ヤヤ"
Incorrect humble language
AND THUS, WHAT SHOULD I CALLEST THOU...
HMPH
I'M SORRY !!

I'll give you special permission and let you call me Reiche!
...I WONDER WHY SHE'S SO ARROGANT...
ANYWAY...
...DO YOU WANT SOME COFFEE?
I HATE MORNINGS...
NO, IT'S USELESS.
BUT MORNING MEANS COFFEE...?
WHERE DID YOU PULL THAT FROM?
You don't have much carrying space, right?
If you have something like that...
I DEFENDED IT TO THE DEATH.
DON'T DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
No, it's useless.

I BEGIN EACH MORNING BY TAKING MY TIME AND HAVING SOME COFFEE
YOU GET IRRITATED BECAUSE YOU DON'T...
AS IF...!!
SEE, DOESN'T THE FRESH AIR MAKE YOU FEEL GREAT...?
—
COFFEE REALLY WOULD BE GREAT...
ぎゅぅ

ガキ
... SERIOUSLY, NOT BEING ABLE TO ENJOY THE MORNING IN LEISURE ..
FROM BELOW, TOO?!
GUWA!
THAT MERIT'S DEATH !!!
Furious
The tables are turned again...
I KNEW IT...
THE ROBOT I KICKED YESTER-DAY!!
IS THAT WHY IT'S HEAD IS FACING THE WRONG DIRECTION ?!?

EH...
IS IT JUST MY IMAGINATION, OR IS IT THAT THEY SEEM MAD?!
Robots aren't supposed to have feelings...
IS THAT ANGER...
.....!!!!
TCH...


I... THINK... I'M GONNA PUKE...
The coffee
IF YOU PUKE, I'LL KILL YOU!!
I should end your life before you puke...!!
IYAA-AAAA AA!!!
UOO-OOO-OO!!
GYAA AAAA AAA!!
WAAAA AAAAA AAHHH!!

THE BOTTOM LEVEL'S WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY ...!!!

しぽん
ゴボボ

Crying
... THIS IS...

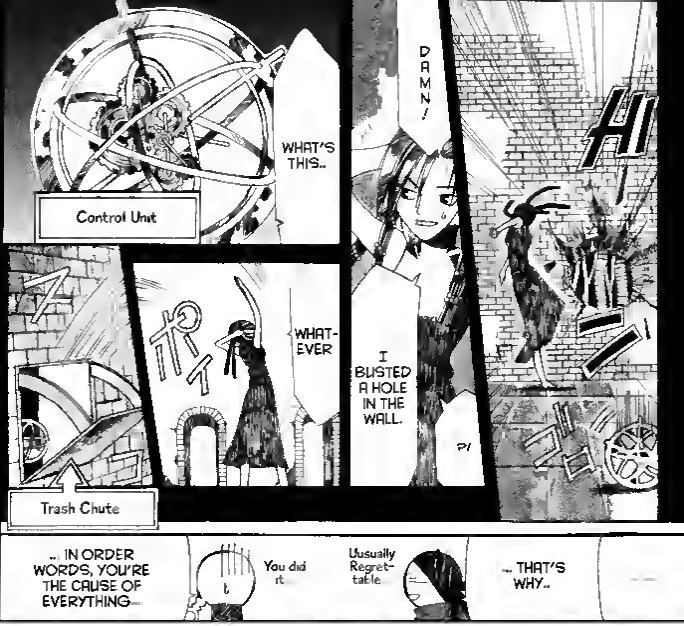
... SO... THE PERSON WHO PLOTTED TO STEAL IT IS HERE...?!
WHAT?
WAIT A MINUTE, WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
MAYBE ... OR MAYBE IT WAS THROWN AWAY ...?
WELL, THE CONTROL UNIT SHOULD BE SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE LET'S LOOK...
AH I SEE.
A conspirator in the waste disposal faciity ...?! And un defended ...?!
AS IF!!!!
Thirst for blood...?
YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT, DON'T YOU? PLEASE TELL ME.
I DIDN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT THIS, BUT..
.....
...IT CAN'T BE HELPED...

"TO WASH CLOTHES"... HEY, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
A LONG, LONG TIME AGO, THERE WAS A GRANDMOTHER AND A GRANDFATHER WHO LIVED TOGETHER. THE GRANDFATHER WENT TO THE MOUNTAIN TO CUT WOOD WHILE THE GRANDMOTHER WENT TO THE RIVER...

TL note-The story and images in the background are about Momotaro, "peach boy," a classic Japanese

I GET IT, "ALIENS"... WHY WOULD THEY...!!
Cop on
Mail a drop of blood was left in the cow!
My wife saw!
Abducted
THERE WAS A BRIGHT, ORANGE LIGHT IN THE SKY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT... BLINKING!!

BEING A FRAGILE PRINCESS, I DON'T KNOW WHEN OR WHERE I MIGHT BE ATTACKED... SO, SPECIAL TRAINING, TO ME, IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL.
ONE DAY, I WAS DOING MY USUAL SPECIAL TRAINING.
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE TO WARRANT THAT? YOU'RE JUST VIOLENT...


DAMN!
I BUSTED A HOLE IN THE WALL.
WHAT-EVER
WHAT'S THIS..
Control Unit
Trash Chute

... IN ORDER WORDS, YOU'RE THE CAUSE OF EVERYTHING—
You did it.
Uusually Regret-table
... THAT'S WHY..

.....
.....
Final Answer.
THAT'S CORRECT.

WHY DIDN'T I NOTICE THIS EARLIER...
ガシン ガシン
WELL, LET'S SEARCH.
HUH... WAIT! HOW ARE WE GOING TO FIND IT IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS HUGE PLACE!
DON'T WORRY,
I'VE GOT GREAT INSTINCTS!
どかん
I'D REALLY APPRECIATE SOMETHING MORE REASSURING!!
ボコ ボコ ボコ
THEY'VE APPEARED ..?
ガシャーン ガシャーン

WHAT?! WAIT A SECOND! DID YOU EVEN THINK THIS THROUGH?!
Again, a woman who acts on instincts.
YOU TAKE CARE OF THE ENEMIES! I'LL LOOK FOR THE CONTROLS!
FROM BEHIND...?
WHAT A PAIN.
I GUESS I SHOULD GET SERIOUS...
WHAT?!
A CHILD ...?!

YOU IDIOT ...!!
FARO ...
...HUH ...

ゴラ
A RO-BOT ...?!
.....
SHIT... SO FAST ... I COULDN'T SEE IT...
CYN-THI..
..?
!!
IT'S ABSOR-BING THE TRASH ...?!
WHY IS IT CONSUM-ING IT'S FRIENDS ...?!

IT'S GOING WILD...?!
THERE'S NO CONTROLLING IT...
DON'T GET TOO CLOSE TO IT...!!
HURRY, IF WE DON'T FIND THE CONTROLS... THAT ROBOT...
REICHE!!!

FARO
...TCH...

Kill!!
Kill!!
Kill!!
Kill!!
ブ!
CYNTHI...!!! HAVE YOU FORGOT-TEN ME?!

What?
Cruel...?
Ahh...
Cru-
el...
... ISN'T IT CRUEL?
.....
Again, you speak of that stupid, weak, worthless, mere hindrance of a heart?
Living a life with such a worthless thing is pathetic!
Would it be easier to just DIE?

はははは
DON'T SCREW AROUND.

EVEN SO, I'LL HAVE TO ENTER THE CHEST..
IF SO, I'LL HAVE TO AIM FOR THE CORE...
FAST...
TOO FAST..
I DID BETTER BARE-HANDED EARLIER.
... HOW-EVER...
ATTACK-ING THE OUTSIDE WILL HAVE NO EF-FECT..
REGE-NERA-TION ...?!

IMPOS-
SIBLE?
Got-
cha!!

IF YOU DON'T COME OUT,
SHE'S GOING TO CRY.
Are you...
... an idiot?
しゅっ
ヒュ

ボロボロ
ボロボロ
あ、
きゃあ

ズサササン
きゃあああ
I FOUND IT THANKS TO THE ROBOT GRABBING ALL THAT TRASH
THE ROBOT REJECTED THE CONTROL DEVICE..
チン

AH.
OH, NO, THIS LOOKS MUCH WORSE THAN IT IS...
I'M GLAD YOU WERE HERE, FARO
YOU'RE TRULY STRONG
OW, OW, OW!!
DON'T LIE.
AH... WELL, ABOUT THAT...
THE VENTILATION IS BETTER THIS WAY.. MAYBE. SOMETHING LIKE THIS DOESN'T HURT A BIT.
IT DIDN'T GET THE BONE, SO I CAN MOVE AND THE SENSITIVITY IS NO PROBLEM
IT DOESN'T WORK.
STOP ACTING COOL.

I KIND OF IMPOSED A LOT UPON YOU EARLIER
YEAH, I SOMEHOW NOTICED THAT!!
And no nevermind
EVEN IF I'M SCARED, YOU'RE NOT OBLIGATED TO STRAIN YOURSELF THIS MUCH, RIGHT?
NO, THAT IS—
Well, uhh...
I'VE BEEN ALONE FOR A LONG TIME.
THE FIRST TIME I SAW CYNTHI, I THOUGHT SHE WAS CUTE
I WANTED TO BECOME FRIENDS
IT'S LIKE CYNTHI SAID IT'S POINT-LESS—
"YOU'RE NOT OBLIGATED TO STRAIN YOURSELF THIS MUCH, RIGHT?"
SO, YOU OCCASIO-NALLY...

I UNDERSTOOD, BUT I STILL COULDN'T HELP IT WHEN SHE LEFT...
BECAUSE IT SEEMED SHE WAS GOING TO CRY.
BUT, IT'S WEIRD. WHEN YOU WERE HERE, FARO, EVEN THOUGH WE WERE FIGHTING AND THE PROBABILITY OF DYING WAS HIGH, I DON'T THINK I WAS SCARED EVEN ONCE.
I KNEW IT.
UNTIL NOW, MY PROUD ATTITUDE...
I WAS SCARED.
IT WAS TO HIDE THAT.
I WONDER WHY..?

WE WERE PROBABLY TOO BUSY TO EVEN THINK... HA HA HA
WELL, LET'S GO BACK
WE HAVE TO GET THE CONTROL UNIT BACK.
YOU'LL COME WITH ME, RIGHT, FARO?
WAIT, WAIT I GUESS YOU'RE SAYING THAT BECAUSE YOU HAVE NO INTENTION OF LISTENING TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY, RIGHT?
It's been like that...
BUT, WE'VE BEEN GOING DOWN THIS WHOLE TIME, SO...
When you're listening to someone...
Ignoring
Faro
FORGET MY PREVIOUS REMARK'S, THIS IS ARROGANCE!
Goal
Current Area
ARE WE GOING TO TAKE THE STAIR'S FROM HERE?
Distant Gaza

THE SUNRISE FROM THE TOP FLOOR IS ALSO SUPERB.
THAT'S RIGHT... IF YOU GET ME TO THE TOP SAFELY, I'LL GIVE YOU THE ABSOLUTE BEST COFFEE AS A REWARD.
That should be fine
I'D BE DELIGHTED.
...I'M SURE IT IS.
I WILL DO MY BEST FOR ONE MORE JOB.
桜雪 ～おわり

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Proofreader: Sohime-Kun

QC: Kayani

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